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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Drug Investigation Leads to Indictment of 25**

Dec. 18, 2017 – An extensive drug investigation has led to the indictments of 25 people on drug-trafficking charges and the seizures of illegal narcotics, firearms and some \$200,000 in cash, Shelby County Dist. Atty. Gen. Amy Weirich said Monday.

Those indicted include at least 15 who are members of the Dixie Homes Murda Squad, a violent street gang that started in the old Dixie Homes Housing Project several years ago and which was the subject of a 2014 gang injunction declaring them to be a public nuisance.

The nine-month investigation by the Memphis Police Organized Crime Unit resulted in the recovery of 2½ kilograms (five pounds) of heroin, two ounces of powdered cocaine and an ounce of marijuana from various locations throughout the city and Shelby County.

They also recovered five firearms and 11 vehicles that were purchased with suspected drug proceeds. Those indicted are charged with conspiring to sell and distribute heroin.

So far this year there have been 97 deaths related to the overdose of heroin, and nearly 500 non-fatal overdoses.

The investigation and indictments were announced Monday in a news conference by Dist. Atty. Gen. Weirich and Memphis Police Director Michael Rallings.

The case will be handled by Asst. Dist. Atty. Chris Scruggs of the DA's Multi-Agency Gang Prosecution Unit that oversees homicide cases and other violent crimes associated with gang activity, specific targeted gang members and special cases assigned by the District Attorney General.

The prosecution team works daily with the MGU Operations team, using local ordinances and state and federal laws to hold offenders accountable.

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